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(SOURCE INDIANAPOLIS STAR)

DECEMBER 23, 82

Polish defector links Andropov in plot on Pope

Washington (UPI) — A former Polish ambassador who is under a death sentence for defecting to America said Wednesday Soviet leader Yuri Andropov may have masterminded the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II.

"The assassination attempt in Rome last year ... may well have been the result of a secret death sentence pronounced against him by the Soviet KGB," said Zdzislaw Rurarcz, former Polish ambassador to Japan.

RURARCZ POINTED out at a news conference that Andropov headed the KGB at the time the Pope was shot and wounded. Andropov became leader of the Soviet Union last month following the death of Leonid Brezhnev.

"I've never had the slightest doubt" of Soviet complicity in the assassination attempt, Rurarcz said. "I immediately was led to believe that the Soviets were behind it."

Italian authorities say Mehmet Ali Agca, a condemned Turkish murderer who had escaped from a Turkish jail, actually shot the Pope in a conspiracy involving Bulgaria — the Soviet Union's most loyal ally.

INTELLIGENCE authorities often claim the Soviet KGB runs the security apparatus of Bulgaria and all other Eastern European satellites.

Rurarcz defected last Dec. 23 from his diplomatic post in Japan and since has obtained political asylum in the United States.

Last Friday, a Polish military court imposed the death penalty on the former diplomat in absentia.

"I do not take this sentence lightly."

See PLOT Page 7



Associated Press

Zdzislaw M. Rurarcz*Condemned in absentia*

Plot —

* Continued From Page 1

ly," Rurarcz told a news conference.

HE WAS FLANKED by two plainclothes guards who were only identified as "government" officials. Rurarcz said the administration had offered him protection and he has accepted it.

He said he was convinced the plot to kill the Pope was ordered by Moscow as an alternative to a costly Soviet invasion of Poland to crush

the Solidarity movement.

Along with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, Rurarcz said, the Polish-born Pope after a tumultuous visit to Poland had become a unifying symbol for freedom-seeking Poles, 95 percent of whom are Roman Catholics.

RURARCZ SAID the Soviets had considered invading Poland but judged "the cost was too high . . . It would have required a million soldiers."

He said he had been in phone

contact with Romuald Spasowski, the former Polish ambassador to Washington who also defected last year and who had received the same death sentence "for high treason."

"The real treason, or course, is the treason, that (Poland's military ruler) Gen. (Wojciech) Jaruzelski and his junta committed against Poland and our people when they proclaimed martial law a year ago and proceeded to suppress the free trade union movement, Solidarity," Rurarcz said.

Two Polish Defectors

By DAVID SHIRIBMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 — Romuald Spasowski, the former Polish Ambassador to the United States and once one of the capital's most elegant entertainers, has disappeared from the Washington scene. But Zdzislaw Rurarcz, Warsaw's former Ambassador to Japan and once the very model of the Polish Foreign Service officer, is conducting what he describes as a "war" against the current Polish regime.

A year ago, to the great embarrassment of the Polish Government, the two Ambassadors broke with that government's decision to impose martial law and and sought asylum in the United States.

Since then, Mr. Rurarcz has pledged to continue his struggle against a regime he contends "denies the fundamental rights of the Polish people."

"I do not stay quiet," Mr. Rurarcz said when asked to reflect on his defection. "I consider this a, let's say, war. I still speak out. Otherwise there would have been no sense in defecting. I could have stayed quiet in Poland."

In the year since Mr. Rurarcz, his wife and daughter walked into the American Embassy in Japan, requested political asylum and then settled here, he has engaged a publicist, held news conferences at the National Press Club, testified before Congress, campaigned for food drives for Poland, addressed Polish-American groups in Chicago and Buffalo and lectured before university audiences across the country.

"This Has Had Some Impact"

He made headlines when he told the Commission on Cooperation and Security in Europe, a group that monitors the 1973 Helsinki accords, that the Polish regime had been preparing for martial law for nine months. He attracted more notice when he said he was "ashamed" that Poles had to depend on others for food.

"I thought that I would be more helpful to democracy and freedom in this capacity — speaking, writing, maybe teaching," he said, explaining his continued outspokenness. "This has made some impact. I was, after all, a trusted man in Poland."

With his prominence, his animated English, his smartly tailored suits and

here. That is in sharp contrast to Mr. Spasowski who defected three days before Mr. Rurarcz. Mr. Spasowski, who served delicate canapés and French wines to the strains of Chopin at Embassy functions here, swiftly dropped out of sight and did not reply to a written request for an interview.

Mr. Rurarcz, the son of a working-class family, was born in a small town just south of the Vistula River in a province of Poland that had once been occupied by Imperial Austria and Imperial Russia. He is an economist, the author of six books, a man known for a gregarious sense of humor and for physical strength; he can grab a chair and do a one-arm handstand on it. Once a dedicated member of the Polish Communist Party, Mr. Rurarcz sat in a restaurant at a suburban shopping mall the other day, cut into a piece of beef and voiced deep skepticism that the Soviet bloc could be reformed.

"Worried About the Future"

"I don't have a gloomy soul," he said, speaking hesitantly at first. "But I am worried, worried about the future. If the world's totalitarian systems do not show any signs of profound reform, you must be prepared for the worst. This is something that is worrying me terribly. Too many

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The New York Times/Teresa Zabala

Zdzislaw Rurarcz, the former Polish Ambassador to Japan.

things are becoming irrational, and now anything can be expected."

Now, at the year's anniversary of the crackdown, his hair is a little longer, his voice a little more strident. The demand for Mr. Rurarcz's speeches has dropped off a bit but not his ardor. He said that Sunday's announcement by Poland's military leader, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, that the basic provisions of martial law would be suspended by the end of the year, had not changed his views.

"I honestly believe that the Soviet system is not reformable," he said. "The Soviets do not mature. Instead of seizing historic opportunity to show a good will they do not. They are actually preparing for war. They are not sure of the precise moment, but there is not the slightest doubt in my mind that they mean business."

"I Wanted to Believe"

Mr. Rurarcz, who joined the Communist Party as a teen-ager, advanced steadily within the Polish bureaucracy, working as the economic attaché to the Polish Embassy here, serving as the permanent representative to the General Agreement on Tariffs and

nomic adviser to Edward Gierek, then the Polish Communist Party's First Secretary. He says his first serious doubts about the Soviet system arose during the Czechoslovakian crisis of 1968. But until the turn of events in Poland, he adds, he was always tantalized by the hope that things might someday improve. "I wanted to believe," he said.

With the emergence of Solidarity, his hopes quickened. Then he openly began to support the movement and even greeted Lech Wałęsa, the union leader, in Japan. "I was too tired of waiting for change," he reflected. "It was too much. I was not hiding my views. They were known, and sometimes, believe me, I was a bit concerned that one day I would face the consequences of all this."

Today Mr. Rurarcz lives in the Washington suburbs — he will not say just where — and conducts his life with caution. He still gives the occasional talk, is at work polishing his memoirs and, despite the distance from home, says he does not regret having defected. "No one will be able to say," he said, "that I participated in a war against my own nation."

